

REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-18, 22-39 and 42-45 have been rejected by the Examiner. Claims 19-21, 40 and 41 have been objected to by the Examiner as depending from rejected base claims. However, the Examiner states that claims 19-21, 40, and 41 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability with respect to claims 19-21, 40, and 41. Accordingly, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 22 to include the features recited in claims 19, and 40, respectively. Claims 20, and 41 have been amended to correct antecedent basis issues raised by the above-stated amendments. In addition, independent claim 42 has been amended to recite features substantially similar to those recited in independent claims 1 and 22, including the features previously recited in claims 19/40. Further, claims 43-44 have been amended, and new claims 46 and 47 have been added to recite features substantially similar to those recited in claims 2-6 and 23-27. Thus no new matter has been entered by these amendments. Claims 7-19 and 28-40 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Applicants submit that claims 1-6, 20-27, and 41-47 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections. No new matter has been entered.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-15, 22-26, and 42-45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,421,498 to Packer, in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0229672 to Kohn and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0059231 to Takatori. In addition, claims 16-18 and 37-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Packer, Kohn, Takatori, and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0158904 to Suzuki et al.

As indicated above, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 22, and 42 to include the features previously found in dependent claims 19 and 40. The Examiner has indicated that claims 19 and 40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, claims 1, 22, and 42 are considered to be allowable claims. Claims 2-6, 20, 21, 23-27, 40, 41, and 43-47 depend from what should be allowable base claims 1, 22, and 42, respectively. For at least these reasons,

the Applicants submit that claims 2-6, 20, 21, 23-27, 40, 41, and 43-47 should be in condition for allowance. Claims 7-18 and 28-39 have been cancelled rendering the rejections thereof moot.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is requested. It is submitted that the foregoing amendments and remarks should render the case in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, as the cited references neither anticipate nor render obvious that which the Applicants deem to be the invention, it is respectfully requested that claims 1-6, 20-27, and 41-47 be passed to issue.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 09-0457.

Respectfully submitted,
CANTOR COLBURN LLP
Applicants' Attorneys

By: /Marisa J. Dubuc/
Marisa J. Dubuc
Registration No. 46,673
Customer No. 77212

Date: November 14, 2008

Address: 20 Church Street, 22nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06103-3207
Telephone: (860) 286-2929
Fax: (860) 286-0115